

01 APR 1998

Mark S. Zaid, Esq.
Suite 1175
1501 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Reference: F-1998-00456 (Arianna Huffington)

Dear Mr. Zaid:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records pertaining to the following persons:

- "1. Ambassador Maurice Larry Lawrence, former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, who died in January 1996.
2. Shelia Davis Lawrence, former U.S. Special Representative to the World Conservation Union and widow of Ambassador Lawrence."

Your request has been assigned the reference number above for identification purposes.

We are able to accept item 1 of your request, but with regard to item 2--records pertaining to Shelia Davis Lawrence--we need more information before we begin processing. Specifically, to conduct an effective search of our files for information on an individual, we need the full name, the date and place of birth, nationality, and citizenship status. Without these we may be unable to distinguish between individuals with the same or similar names.

In addition, the Privacy Act requires that you furnish a signed, notarized statement from the individual authorizing us to release personal information. Privacy rights are described in the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a) and the FOIA [5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)]. Although we can search without this waiver, if we should locate relevant records and did not have such an authorization, we might have to withhold information that, if released, would be an unwarranted invasion of that person's privacy.


Concerning your request for a fee waiver, I am required to consider your FOIA request in light of the rules and regulations governing the waiver of fees as published in the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR Title 32, Chapter XIX,

Section 1900.13(b), enclosed] as well as relevant Department of Justice and Office of Management and Budget guidelines. I have reviewed your request and have determined that your petition does not meet the requirements of those regulations. Release of the information you have requested would not be likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the United States Government. Accordingly, in this instance your request for a fee waiver is denied.

Based on the information provided in your letter, we have determined that your client Arianna Huffington qualifies for the "representatives of the news media" fee category, which means she will be assessed fees only for the reproduction of documents at the rate of ten cents per page for pages in excess of the first 100.

We will hold your request in abeyance for 45 days pending receipt of the information described above, specifically, biographic information and a signed release from Mrs. Lawrence.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of the official.

[Lee S. Strickland]

Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

